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COLORADO CATHOLIC, SIXTEENTH YEAR.

## GREAT CHURCHMEN WHO FIGURE IN WEEK'S NEWS

### Dr. De Costa Joins the Catholic Church



DR. DE COSTA.

New York, Dec. 6.—The Rev. Benjamin F. De Costa, whose reception into the Roman Catholic church took place on Sunday last, has written an article which is to be published in Catholic papers, in which he explains his reasons for the step he has taken.

In beginning, Dr. De Costa thanks God for giving him "grace to overcome the deep prejudice implanted by false education," and declares that his change of belief is not the work of a day or a year, but began very long ago.

"The sad, fallen estate of post-reformation belief," he adds, "has forced upon me a reconsideration of principles, the result being the conviction that the reformation was not based upon any true foundations."

Dr. De Costa then alludes to "the passing of studious Anglicans over to the Catholic church."

"The current," he says, "is as steady as the flow of the gulf stream," and he refers to Cardinal Newman and others who have forsaken Protestantism for the church of Rome. He declares, however, if the gifted author of "Lead, Kindly Light," had never spoken, and if Manning, Faber and Wilberforce had never lived, "my mode of thinking must infallibly have led me to accept the faith."

"I do not, however," says Dr. De Costa, "propose to offer an apology for entering the Catholic church. Stand-

love to dwell on them, and nothing can be of greater pleasure to us than the chance to revisit them.

That love we cultivate as the holiest of loves. Therefore, it is not strange that when opportunity offers we should delight to go back to see the old faces, to roll away all the cares and to be again with the days of our youth. Perhaps these scenes may not always be the same, and it is possible that we may find ourselves with feelings of dissatisfaction. But it is also possible and probable that the same old colors about which we first saw Heaven's light.

My desire is to make you see Ireland as I saw it—not all of Ireland, but such features of it as might strike the observer's eye. Ireland is a subject that is constantly being discussed and needs to be constantly defended.

GREAT CHANGES IN IRELAND.

Let me first say that there have been great changes in Ireland. You probably know nothing of these, but the English press seldom tells anything about Ireland except when somebody shoots somebody else. But I have only recently seen it, and to me, after an absence of fourteen years, I found the picture wonderful and inspiring. It is still the same dear land of legend and romance—a land that has suffered all manner of tribulations, and is still advancing beneath the heavy burden.

Ireland is a land which has solved great problems and before which are great problems still to be solved. Even at this moment she is a bone of contention. Those of her enemies who are forced to say that she has suffered say that it has not been the conqueror, but the oppressed themselves who are accountable for her condition. But it was ever the practice of those who injure one to slander the person whom they have injured. Let us, however, remember that God is just. He may appear for a time to be on the side of the mightiest force, but in the end he will be found on the side of those who are in the right. "His mills grind slowly, but they grind exceeding fine."

FIRST VIEW OF THE OLD LAND.

Father Yorke then gave an interesting description of his voyage across the continent and then of his voyage from New York to Queenstown. Continuing, he said:

ing in the midst of modern religious systems tottering to their fall like columns in the temple of Karnak, no defense need be offered for accepting a firm and unshaken Catholic faith."

Dr. De Costa then goes on to speak of the position of the Scriptures in the teaching system of the Catholic church. He declares that "the church of Rome stands before English-speaking people and Protestants anywhere as the unique and solitary defender of the Bible in its integrity and entirety."

"The church," proceeds Dr. De Costa, "never changed her method of dealing with science. In this city a scholar should not allow his mind to become befogged. The issue is not simply one of science or simple interpretation. Primarily, it is a matter of a man's compass—renders the sailor an abject slave."

In conclusion, Dr. De Costa says: "On the Protestant theory is no Catholic church, the only body being a mystical body in the air. On this theory Christianity has failed; the empire that triumphed over the Roman empire has perished. This is simply pessimism. Reformation religionism, therefore, offers no moral or intellectual outlook for coming generations, offers no moral or intellectual outlook for coming generations, and leaves the world forced at last to choose between rationalism and the Catholic church. I believe in the holy Catholic church and the life everlasting."

SALE OF KILLARNEY LANDS.

"Sweet Innisfallen" and the rest of the lakes and lakes of Killarney are for sale at public vendue and Tom Moore's plaintive apostrophe to the "fairies" recurs to memory with apposite meaning—

Sweet Innisfallen, fare thee well,  
And long may light around thee smile  
As soft as on that evening fell  
When first I saw thy fairy tale.

Could the Irish poet have foreseen the future with prophetic vision his verse would have had another lift, for sweet Innisfallen, with her sister lakes and their outcrops of verdure and beauty, are offered for sale in the columns of the advertising sheet of a big American newspaper. The joy of the poet, the delight of the artist and inspiration of the tourist, Beauty's Home, is to be knocked down to the highest bidder, who may be Sir Thomas Lipton, if he should reconsider his decision not to purchase the famous lakes, he being the only man who ever seriously offered to buy them, although many have talked of doing so.

An Irish-American syndicate for the purchase of the property communicated with the Herbert family of Muckross, the owners of land and lakes, but nothing came of it. Tammany Hall wanted it bought by national subscription and maintained as a decorative park, and \$12,000 was pledged, but there the project halted. Howard Gould would have interested himself in the property but his sister Helen objected to his acquiring Killarney real estate of such formidable proportions, and he did not invest. If American money buys the Lakes of Killarney and the hills and valleys now owned by the Earl of Kenmare and the Herberts, the usual wild rush for corner lots will follow, and Killarney subdivisions will be in evidence. It has been said in the past of this property: The Earl of Kenmare may have thousands of acres for his game, but not a foot will he sell to an Irish laborer, however worthy or industrious.

The Lakes of Killarney are within a mile of Killarney town, where it is always morning and market day, and visitors have the privilege of buying Limerick lace while they sit in the

jaunting car or of supplying themselves with Kerry diamonds, bracelets of bog oak, listening to the Irish pipes playing "God Save the Queen," or even dancing a jig with a pretty Irish lass in kiltie of green.

They are shown, too, that steep and craggy Carraun Fua, the highest mountain in Ireland 3,414 feet above the sea, where, when the top is reached, ample compensation for the feat of climbing is found in the view of the fair country below. And a treat in store is to be told in a delicious brogue that the Prince of Wales climbed Carraun Fua when a "broth of a boy" and stood hat in hand on the topmost height, while his watching subjects cheered him right royally, and, seeing the boy safe, cried: "God be thanked!"

No other spot in the Emerald Isle has such an aggregation of picturesque poverty as the region around the Lakes of Killarney. It would seem as if all the beggars in the kingdom were after you in full cry. And if you give him the blessing that goes with its acknowledgment is surely worth its price. "May every hair on your head be a candle to light you to Paradise."

M. L. RAYNE.

### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Fair as the moon by night,  
And brighter than the noonday sun,  
Sweet Mary stands alone  
In a flood of light,  
From her creation;  
From life's first, earliest vibration;  
From that first feeble palpitation  
Of a new life unseen, unknown,  
Except by God alone.

She bore no mark of the primal curse,  
No taint from any source,  
No stain of sin,  
Wrought by herself, or inbred and original,  
Marred that sweet body, fair and virginal,  
Or the pure soul within.

In this beauty of her state  
She stands, the glory of her race,  
Pure, holy, innocent, immaculate,  
And full of grace,  
In every quality of soul  
A matchless, perfect whole;  
In every line and feature  
A faultless, shining creature.

In truth, 'tis easy to believe  
In this exemplification of Christ's holy  
From the birth-anointed by the other,  
The first and guilty Eve,  
It was a gift that could be given  
As readily as when, at the font,  
The water falls on the infant's front,  
And the pardon falls from Heaven.

It was a simple, unconditioned fact,  
With only one party to the act,  
All-powerful was God to render:  
Helpless sweet Mary's soul to hinder,  
Half Mary! From thy breast  
As sweet as the snow  
And half the grace which did prevent,  
And made thee so!

II.

There is according to my thought,  
A harder problem here, which brings  
My uttermost imaginings  
To naught.

When I recall that saintly life  
Of Mary, mother, daughter, wife—  
And when I try to trace  
Its golden thread,  
As if the perfect web be spread  
Before my feeble gaze, I find  
When above all,  
I set me to recall  
Her life-long perseverance  
In spotless innocence and moral beauty,  
By the working of her own sweet will;

Her close adherence  
To God's dear love, and prayer, and daily duty;  
Through doubt and sorrow faithful still;  
Perfect in all;  
When I recall  
The matchless merit  
Of that sweet spirit,  
Aided indeed by grace, but always free—

O then 'tis hard for me,  
All sick with error,  
To master my surprise:  
To life my eyes  
From the dark mirror  
Where my own life reflected lies  
Up to that radiant zodiac  
Where, like the moon in silver light  
To follow in thy train, O Mary,  
She moved through life in her own sweet track,  
In her white robe,  
Queen of the night.

Oh! Mary, full of grace,  
Help me (for I am weak)  
To follow in thy train, O Mary,  
The prayers, dear Mother, I bespeak.  
If thou wilt lead for this,  
I cannot miss,  
To find, some day, the home I seek.

JOHN BIRD.

Rev. Father Peter C. Yorke. TOLD AN INTERESTING STORY OF THE PRESENT CONDITION OF IRELAND IN A LECTURE DELIVERED AT SAN FRANCISCO ON LAST SUNDAY EVENING. THE CORRESPONDENT OF THE INTERMOUNTAIN CATHOLIC SENDS A GRAPHIC ACCOUNT OF THE FAIR AND ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC POLITICAL CONDITION OF THE IRELAND OF TODAY WILL FIND IT WORTHY OF PERUSAL.

coast are too much huddled, and suffer for that reason. These are the congested districts, and the latest agitation in Ireland has been to relieve these districts. You often hear appeals from these places for aid for starving inhabitants. All this is very humiliating

to the people, and they say, and we echo their statements, that it is a thing unnecessary—a thing that should not be.

"The trouble lies with England. That nation is able to scatter money like water when it comes to foreign wars,

Mgr. Chapelle Sails For the Philippines

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